



Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2800

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 040894-5647

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Mitsuharu NAKAMURA, *et al.*

Application No.: 09/811,506

Filed: March 20, 2001

For: DUSTPROOF COVER FOR A
CONNECTOR AND PREFITTING
DUSTPROOFING STRUCTURE FOR
A CONNECTOR

Mail Stop AF

Confirmation No. 8902

Art Unit: 2839

Examiner: S. Nguyen

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed after the events recited in § 1.97(c) but before the payment of the issue fee for the above-identified application. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), a fee of \$180.00, as specified by § 1.17(p) is due for filing this IDS. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge this \$180.00 fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

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Each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in the German Patent Office Office Action (copy enclosed) in a counterpart foreign patent application dated March 19, 2003. A copy of each listed documents is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449. No translation of the German Reference No. 86 32 373 exists. However, Applicants informed the undersigned that the German Patent Office Action states that the reference teaches generally sealing covers.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should any of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any additional fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

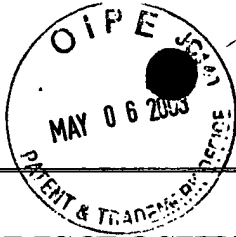
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Dated: May 6, 2003

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MJB/DEC/fdb

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
CITATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

PTO Form 1449

Attorney Docket No.

040894-5647

Application No.:

09/811,506

Applicant: Mitsuharu NAKAMURA, *et al.*

Filing Date: March 20, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2839

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u> YES NO	
	0 740 368	10/30/1996	Europe				
	0 597 388	05/18/1994	Europe				
	86 32 373	03/12/1987	Germany				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.